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# VIRGINIA

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Prince Edward

COUNTY

1950

Agent Etta Lytle Smith December 1, 1949 to November 30, 1950

Assistant Agent \_\_\_\_\_

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT  
SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

There are eleven Home Demonstration Clubs in Prince Edward County. The total membership of one hundred nine worked together this year to carry out their program. One of their projects was kitchen improvement. Emphasis this year was on arrangement and care. Floor coverings and floors, buying and care of electrical appliances were included. This project was selected because of the need for the housewife making her working conditions better. Therefore this room (the kitchen) should be made comfortable and attractive with appliances and arrangement to make work easier.

There are over 500 of the seven hundred thirty two families with electricity. The use of electrical appliances came to the attention of the Home Demonstration Committee as a project to meet the needs of the farm housewife.

As a result of this project thirty of the hundred nine members covered their floors, thirty one bought refrigerators, and twenty five bought washing machines.

Mrs George P. Morton of the Darlington Heights Club had running water installed in her kitchen and purchased a new electric water heater. She also bought and installed new fixtures making a complete bathroom.

Forty two women have already rearranged their kitchens for easier care. Ten women bought new kitchen and chairs and all women in the clubs bought some small equipment for the equipment.

Last year kitchen improvement was taken as a project and emphasis was placed on arrangement of the kitchen. As a result of this demonstration fifty seven of the eighty seven members rearranged kitchens for easier care. In the rural areas of the county so many of the families were without wood boxes this topic was discussed and as a result each club member got a suitable box near her stove. Members expressed the desire to make labor saving boxes as they could see the advantage over the present box.

Sinks and running water seemed to have been a necessity in the county. Each member in clubs were urged to get a sink to carry stagnant water from the house. As a result of this four sinks were purchased for this purpose.

Twenty seven leaders aided the leaders and Home Demonstration Committee in carrying this year's program.

There were eighteen method demonstrations given by these leaders and eighteen talks and discussions given by them.

One hundred thirty one of the two hundred seventy six club members (4-11) had garden as a project. Twenty acres of land were involved in these projects. Seventy nine of these completed their projects. Total receipts for those completing were four thousand three hundred dollars (\$4300) and the total expenses were eighteen hundred dollars (\$1800). The total profit was two thousand five hundred dollars (2500). These members also won eleven dollars in prizes.

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Last year there were one hundred four 4-H members carrying garden as a project and sixty two members completed. These sixty two members had eight acres of garden. Total yield from these gardens was \$1825.00. Total expenses amounted to \$108.33. Profit or labor return to members was \$1216.67. Prizes for garden project products amounted to \$8.00.

Thirty five adult leaders and twenty eight junior leaders aided in carrying out the year's program. Thirty six demonstrations were given by junior leaders and forty five were given by adult leaders to 4-H club members.

In both 4-H and adult work there was an increased interest in the program. This interest turned out greater work for the year and an increase in working habits and project work completed. This increased interest showed in all projects and has greatly helped to improve rural homes and their surroundings.

#### KITCHEN IMPROVEMENT

Kitchen improvement was one of the main projects worked on last year and carried over this year. The eleven Home Demonstration Clubs carried this project. Demonstrations and discussions were given to club members to carry out this project. This project included the following: arrangement and care; buying and care of electrical appliances and floor coverings for the kitchen. With these points in mind the following goals were set up:

1. To create interest in making work easier by correct kitchen arrangement.
2. To get farm women to see the need for suitable floor covering for the kitchen.
3. To teach the buying of the most needed appliances first.
4. To teach how to care for electrical appliances.

In arrangement and care of the kitchen members were shown the need and how to arrange their kitchen according to the floor plans they had. Members that had already arranged their kitchens readily let others come in to see the advantages of having a well planned kitchen. After arranging their kitchens the forty two members carrying this project felt the need of purchasing tables and chairs. All club members also bought some small appliance for greater efficiency in the kitchen.

Floors and floor covering were discussed and the need for good floors under the covering was discussed. This point was brought out because so many women complained about floor covering not lasting and this feature was stressed to show the one reason why they do not last. Buying of good floor covering was also discussed to show the value and benefits derived from these discussions. Members and leaders in clubs were taken samples of coverings to give them ideas for buying. As a result thirty members covered their floors.

Buying and care of electrical appliances seemed to be great necessity because there were many with appliances that did not care for them correctly and those purchasing needed pointers to get the appliances that most nearly met their needs. Many of the women would go in stores after our discussion and look at appliances and bring their findings back to the club. Women were also urged especially when buying large appliances to buy with their families in mind; that is to get them large enough to take care of the needs

of the family. As a result of this part of the project thirty five washing machines were purchased.

Many members expressed the desire to have more labor saving devices in their kitchens the next year.

### HOUSE FURNISHINGS

In house furnishings three main topics were taken up. They were: making slip covers; wiring lamps, and redecorating old trays. Considering the topics, the following objectives were set up:

1. To interest the women to add beauty through slip covers
2. To show need for correct light for reading and other purposes
3. To learn to redecorate trays to keep down costs and use available materials
4. To be able to know the correct colors to use in rooms

Color schemes were discussed in the two new clubs organized this year in order for them to be able to blend colors correctly. Other club members had been exposed to this part because this project was carried this year. Many members suggested having the same this year so that more people could take advantage of it. Color schemes were discussed so that members might know the right colors to buy for slip covers if their rooms were already decorated or what colors to buy if they were going to decorate and make slip covers at the same time. Thirty five of the hundred nine members have painted or papered some room in their homes this year.

After color schemes had been discussed in the new clubs they along with the members of other clubs started making slip covers. Members have reported after these demonstrations to date that ten slip covers have been completed.

Due to the fact that many rural people were throwing away good trays because the paint had started coming off and they didn't know what to do with them, the Home Demonstration Committee in their meeting decided to carry redecorating trays as a project. Demonstrations were given on the removal of paint from trays and the application of paint primer. After this demonstration members were shown how to repaint their trays and how to redecorate them. Women in clubs were given a chance to make their own signs and stencils for the trays. All members were well pleased at the results obtained by their work on trays. Some members who didn't have trays bought trays and redecorated them. The cost was less than they could buy similar trays at the store. As a result of this part of home furnishing twenty five trays have been fixed and most of them will go to friends as Christmas gifts.

People in rural areas not knowing the value of oil lamps had thrown away many valuable lamps or had given them away after securing electricity. This project was brought about because the need was felt by the people and many homes though they had electricity were still poorly lighted.

Club members that had done wiring of lamps last year aided the agent in giving demonstrations. As a result twenty five more lamps were wired this year and fifteen lamps made from jugs. Non of the materials cost more than \$1.30. Each member wiring a lamp saved approximately two to six dollars.

#### Yard Improvement

Members of the Home Demonstration Committee in their planning meeting expressed the desire of the people in their community to get more information on seeding grass, planning and also arranging flowers and shrubbery for their yards. In view of these points the following objectives were set up:

1. To learn the procedure for seeding grass in the yard
2. To know where to place flowers and shrubbery
3. To know the different kinds of shrubbery that could be selected from the woodland.
4. To learn to plan the yard area efficiently.

Many of the people in the country had poorly arranged yards. The drainage of these yards was poor also. In order to make them a thing of beauty instead of piles of junk around the house and other place demonstrations were conducted in yard beautification.

A meeting was held with 52 people present. Of this number, 22 were leaders. Dr. William Watson, Horticulturist, Virginia State College, discussed the following points: proper drainage for the yard; different areas to plan with reference to family involved such as play areas, work areas, and so on; seeding grass, shrubbery from the woods and arrangement; drives and driveways; arrangement of flowers and the different kinds of flowers. Each person present decided that they had received valuable information and that they would carry these facts home and make them a fact in their own surroundings. As a result of this meeting leaders carried this information back to their clubs and other members helped other people.

Twenty five homes with cluttered back yards removed these eyesores. Fifteen members in clubs have started filling in their yards to level them and have proper drainage. It is hoped by these members that they can get their grass seeded and some shrubbery planted by spring of next year.

#### STORAGE

Storage of canned foods and other vegetables was a major need in the county. This was one of the main reasons why this project was selected. Objectives set up for the project are the following:

1. To know how and when to store potatoes and vegetables
2. To learn to know where to store canned goods
3. To know how to care for potatoes and vegetables before storage
4. To know temperature best suited for different vegetables

Leaders that were trained in Storage last year along with the Agent demonstrated the care of certain vegetables before storing and temperatures at which they should be stored. Discussions were also given on storing foods that should be stored and the storing of canned foods. Members of clubs were asked to follow instructions given for best results and pass the information on to other people. The importance of saving after production was also discussed. Twenty five women have changed their methods of storing canned foods because of information received. Fifteen have changed and cared for their potatoes and vegetables before storage. These members are hoping that they can encourage more people to save as well as produce.

#### CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS

All of the eleven clubs in the county expressed the desire to get some suggestions for Christmas gifts, parties and dinners. The following objectives were set up for this project.

1. To learn to make Christmas gifts to help decrease the cost of same
2. To learn to plan for parties
3. To teach Christmas dinner planning
4. To create a desire for beauty at Christmas parties and dinners

Members of clubs had expressed the desire to be able to make Christmas gifts, plans for parties, and dinners. Christmas gift list with directions for making gifts from feed bags were given to members of clubs. Recipes for cookies and candies, ways to wrap them for Christmas was discussed and passed out to club members. Each member was shown how to make different decorations in club meetings. Menus were suggested for a good Christmas dinner and party. Members are also going to give trays that have been decorated for Christmas gifts.

The Darlington Heights Club will give a Christmas party and they are making their own refreshments and decorations and the agent is invited to see how suitable decoration is for the occasion. Each member said that they had gained from the discussion and will make decorations and gifts for Christmas.

#### 4-H CLUB WORK

There are sixteen 4-H Clubs in Prince Edward County that meet monthly for the purpose of carrying out the Extension program. Aided with the cooperation of adult and junior leaders each club met and discussed the club's program. Prior to this meeting projects had been discussed in each club and members had a chance to express their needs. Project selection was done under the guidance of adult leaders and the agent. The following projects were selected for this year: bedroom improvement, bread making, food preparation, garden, poultry, rabbits and clothing.

#### GARDEN

Each year there are members in the 4-H Club that feel the need to help supply the family with food. They feel as if they start early in producing this food they will grow stronger and better in this field

as they grow. The objectives set up for this project were:

1. To help the family have a well balanced diet by raising a garden
2. To help increase the family food supply
3. To learn to eat new vegetables by raising them

There were one hundred thirty one 4-H members enrolled in this project. These members were from 14 clubs in the county. Seventy nine members enrolled in this project completed. There were twenty acres of land involved in this project. Total receipts were four thousand three hundred dollars with expenses totaling eighteen hundred dollars. The total profit for the members completing amounted to two thousand five hundred dollars. The members completing also won eleven dollars and twenty five cents in prizes at the Fire County Fair.

FOOD PRESERVATION

Canning according to a budget is very essential and also a well balanced diet is essential to healthy and happy living. In order to have both of these 4-H members felt this project was most needed. With these facts in mind objectives were set up:

1. To teach to can by a budget
2. To teach correct methods of canning
3. To show need of canning in relation to well balanced diets the year round

Each member in the project had to make a canning budget as this was one of the requirements for completing. There were thirteen groups taking this project. Thirteen adult and three junior leaders aided the agent in giving demonstrations. Adult leaders gave twenty demonstrations and junior leaders gave eleven. Club members gave seven. Forty seven members made exhibits. There were ninety five members enrolled in this project and fifty seven completed. Members completing canned three thousand three hundred two jars of fruit alone and one thousand eight hundred fourteen they helped to can. These members showed one hundred people how to can. Members judged canned products seven times before completing.

POULTRY

Members enrolled in poultry thought it wise to take this project in hopes it would encourage more people to have an adequate supply for family needs. Objectives for the project were set up and they are the following:

1. To teach improved methods of poultry raising
2. To help increase family supply of poultry
3. To get more people to raise poultry by example

There were twenty nine members enrolled in this project and of this number nineteen completed. There were five hundred and twenty five birds involved. Total receipts for these birds amounted to five hundred twenty five dollars. Members completing reported that three hundred fifteen dollars was incurred in expenses. The total profit from this project by all members amounted to two hundred and ten dollars. Members completing won six dollars in prizes. With the objectives that were set up it is felt that they were reached.

BREAD MAKING

This project was carried with the idea that in teaching 4-H members correct measurements in making good bread it would be passed on to the parent. Two project groups carried this as a project and the following objectives were set up:

1. To teach correct measurements
2. To teach correct procedures in making bread
3. To make bread more palatable

There were fourteen members enrolled in this project and nine completed. One adult leader and one junior leader helped to give instructions in this project. Members that completed helped fourteen people to make bread. Members that completed helped fourteen people to make bread. Members made nine exhibits and gave demonstrations. Those members completing made biscuits one hundred forty five times, corn bread one hundred sixty two times, muffins one hundred forty six times, griddle cakes ninety one times, waffles fifty seven times, loaf bread sixty one times, yeast bread sixty six times and Salt Linn forty six times. Total number of times that all breads were made amounted to seven hundred seventy four times. Members judged bread eight times during the period they carried the project.

BEDROOM IMPROVEMENT

In most homes the child's room is the only place he has to study and be alone at times. Members felt that they wanted to improve this room so as to make it cheerful and enticing to enter. The objectives for this project were to:

1. To arrange furniture for easy cleaning
2. To make color plans for rooms
3. To clean, paint or paper walls in room
4. To provide a dressing table for room

All members completing received instruction about color schemes, arrangement of rooms, cleaning walls, making or fixing over dressing tables and care of the room from leaders and the agent. Members gave eight demonstrations and leaders gave six. Thirty one members made exhibits. There were three hundred forty nine members enrolled in this project during the winter and two hundred nine member completed.

Two hundred nine members cared for their rooms, made color plans, rearranged rooms, and cleaned, painted, or papered their walls. Two hundred nine members either made or renovated their dressing tables. There were one hundred sixty seven rooms involved in this project.

CLOTHING

The Clothing project so you'd like to sew was carried in one club to encourage members to learn to make some of their own clothing. The following objectives were set up and carried out:

1. To teach the value of having a sewing kit
2. To learn to make small articles
3. To learn to measure correctly.

There were five members enrolled in this project and of this number

three completed. Two leaders aided in giving instructions to these members. These members made three exhibits. The three members completing made three head scarves, three aprons, three laundry bags, six towels, four broomstick quilts and equipped three sewing boxes. The total number of articles made amounted to nineteen.

RABBITS

Two members in one of our 4-H club carried Rabbits as a project. These members wanted to encourage people near them to raise rabbits for meat producing purposes. The following objectives were set up:

1. To encourage the raising of rabbits for meat supply
2. To teach the methods of raising rabbits
3. To show the value of raising rabbits

The two members enrolled in the Rabbit project completed. There were forty four animals involved. Total receipts from this project amounted to one hundred twenty dollars. Total expenses were thirty four dollars. Total profit amounted to eighty six dollars.

ACHIEVEMENT DAY

Two hundred forty nine members participated in the Achievement Day this year. This has been an excellent way to encourage 4-H members to do good work. This has also been a good way to stimulate good leadership by 4-H members. All 4-H clubs in the County were represented at the Achievement Day program. Prizes were given to clubs with the best exhibits and recognition to out standing leaders.

NATIONAL 4-H CLUB WEEK

Members of all 4-H Clubs recognized their leaders for outstanding work and participation in their club activities. Seven clubs displayed their work done during the year so that parents and other interested persons might see it. This was done to show what 4-H members do and the value of being trained and getting the latest approved practices. Many of the 4-H club had posters on display in school windows..

FIVE COUNTY FAIR

Four H and adult members of clubs made unit exhibits at the Five County Fair this year for the second time. There were six hundred fifty eight jars of foods in the single entry and a total of one thousand seventy five entries in all departments including pot flowers and cut flowers. The main departments in the Fair included Baking, Canned Foods, Needle Crafts, Flowers, and Unit Project work by clubs both 4-H and adult.

SCOPE OF WORK

There are eleven Home Demonstration Clubs in Prince Edward County with an enrollment of one hundred nine members. These clubs work cooperatively each year with the agent and leaders to make marked improvements

in their homes and surroundings. The clubs meet monthly to carry out Extension practices. Demonstrations or discussions are given to club members either by the agent or trained leaders. All of the members enrolled in Home Demonstration Clubs are from farm homes. Last year there were nine home demonstration clubs with eighty seven members.

There are sixteen 4-H clubs with two hundred seventy six members organized in the county. All of these clubs carried one project during the winter. Two hundred nine members completed their winter projects. Six projects were carried by members during the summer with two hundred seventy six members enrolled. One hundred sixty nine of these members completed.

Last year there were eighteen 4-H clubs with a membership of three hundred forty nine members enrolled. One project was carried during the winter with all members enrolled. Two hundred eighty six members enrolled completed the year's work. Five projects were carried during the summer with three hundred forty nine members enrolled. Two hundred forty two of the members enrolled completed their projects.

Four hundred seventy two families were reached this year through farm and home visits and office calls. Home visits were made to check on demonstrations and to carry information to farm families. In 1949 three hundred fifty six families were reached through office calls and home visits.

Approximately five hundred ninety seven of the seven hundred thirty two families were reached this year through some phase of the Extension Program. Last year approximately four hundred seventy seven families were reached through some phase of the Extension program.

	1948	1949	1950
Number Home Demonstration Clubs or Groups	8	9	11
Membership	125	87	109
Number of Four H Clubs	18	18	16
Membership	349	349	276
Number of families reached	336	356	472
Total number of families reached	611	477	597

COUNTY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

The County Advisory Board is composed of thirty two members. One member from of the eleven Home Demonstration Clubs in the County and two men from each of the community clubs. The Board held two meetings this year to plan for programs and other activities. The Board planned for the County Farmers' Conference, transportation to the State Farmers' Conference, Achievement Day and selected delegates to the State Advisory Board Annual Meeting in King and Queen County.

COUNTY HOME DEMONSTRATION COMMITTEE

The County Home Demonstration Committee is composed of twenty two members. Two members are selected from each club to serve on this committee. The Committee met this year and selected delegates to the District Home Demonstration Meeting in Charlotte County. Four delegates were sent.

The Committee also planned the program calendar for Home Demonstration Clubs in the County. Each member is given a chance in this meeting to view the county situation in order to realize where more work is needed and also more leadership. Each member stresses the need in her community and these needs then are discussed and the most urgent ones are to be worked on for the next year.

#### JUNIOR FOUR H COUNCIL

The Junior 4-H Council has forty eight members with leaders and the Agent as advisors. The Council met twice this year. Delegates for the State 4-H Short Course and Wild Life Conference were selected by the Council. In the first meeting for the year officers and leaders were trained for their respective duties in their local clubs. The Council made plans for Achievement Day, 4-H Club Week and Exhibits for the Five County Fair. Goals were set up by the club to govern members in attendance at meetings, requirements for completing projects and check on standards of clubs. Two hundred nine members completed winter projects and one hundred sixty nine completed Summer projects.

#### LEADERSHIP

There were twenty seven project leaders actively engaged in carrying out the Extension Program. There are one hundred eighty six leaders in the neighborhood leader system, sixty nine of these are women. The leaders held forty seven meetings and assisted in fifteen meetings. In 1949 there were twenty four leaders. They held forty two meetings with a total attendance of three hundred thirty five. There also were sixty nine women in the neighborhood leader system.

There are thirty five adult project leaders actively engaged in 4-H Club work. There are twenty eight junior project leaders. Eighty five meetings were held without agent being present and leaders assisted in sixteen club meetings. Leaders gave eighty one demonstrations.

<u>Growth of Home Demonstration Club Project Leadership</u>		1948	1949	1950
No. Project leaders and goal chairmen		23	24	27
No. Training Meetings held	By Specialist	1	2	1
	By Agent	2	6	1
Attendance at all training meetings		24	66	32
No. Club meetings held by leaders without agent present		43	42	47
No. Club meetings at which leaders assisted		12	14	15

Growth of 4-H Club Project Leadership		1948	1949	1950
No. adult project leaders		18	35	35
No. Training meetings held	By Specialist	0	0	0
	By Agent	0	10	1
No. Junior project leaders		12	26	28
Attendance at leader training meetings		51	41	18
No. 4-H leaders trained individually		10	3	27
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present		89	100	85
No. club meetings at which leaders assisted		9	12	16
No. demonstrations given	By leaders	135	111	81
	By adult	104	63	45
	By junior	21	48	36

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

All agencies in the County working with rural people received the Agent's cooperation wherever it was possible. Among these agencies were the Veterans' On the Farm Training Classes, the Health Department, the Farmers Home Administration and the TB Association. The assistance rendered was generally educational work. People were informed of the services available and were urged to take advantage of the benefits available where they were applicable.

EVALUATION

This is the second year that house furnishing has been carried as a project. The Home Demonstration Committee, Leaders and the Agent planned to carry this project for three years. There has been a marked improvement in homes and surroundings this year. There was an increased interest in better living by both 4-H and adults this year. The improvements to date have been many but greater improvements are expected in the next year and the years ahead.

THE END